Claims

We claim:

1.   A method of displaying content recommendations to a user, the method

5   comprises:

        detecting when a user changes channels;

        when the user changes channels, providing a recommendation of viewable

content; and

        allowing the user to select the recommended content.

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2.   A method of providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be

viewed by a user, the method comprising:

        receiving at least one recommendation of content that can be viewed by the user;

        based on the at least one recommendation, generating the user perceptible

15   indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

        allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of

a client device.

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4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of

a television viewing system.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of

25   a set top box.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises a channel

change event.

30   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the interacting further comprises:

        responding to user signals generated by a user-operated remote control device.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving of at least one recommendation
further comprises:
        responding to information from a rating engine, recommendation engine, or
5   profile engine.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving further comprises:
        generating the at least one recommendation based on any of local or remote
content.
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10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving further comprises:
        generating the at least one recommendation based on any of content available
immediately or content available in the future.

15   11.   A method of providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be
viewed by a user, the method comprising:
        monitoring content viewed by a plurality of users;
        based on the content viewed by a plurality of users, generating the user
perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system
20   state; and
        allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

12.   The method of claim 11 wherein the monitoring further comprises:
        detecting content viewed by a plurality of users based on a predetermined number
25   of users.

13.   The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation
of a client device.

30   14.   The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation
of a television viewing system.

15.   The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a set top box.

5   16.   The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises a channel change event.

17.   The method of claim 11 wherein the interacting further comprises:
        responding to user signals generated by a user-operated remote control device.

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18.   A system for displaying content recommendations to a viewer, the system comprises:
        means for detecting when a viewer changes channels;
        when the viewer changes channels, means for providing a recommendation of
15   viewable content; and
        means for allowing the viewer to select the recommended content.

19.   A system for providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the system comprises:
20   means for receiving at least one recommendation of content that can be viewed by the user;
        means for generating, based on the at least one recommendation the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and
25   means for allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

20.   A system for providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the system comprises:
        means for monitoring content viewed by a plurality of users;

means for generating, based on the content viewed by a plurality of users, the user

perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system

state; and

means for allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

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